

DON'T HAVE A CLUE STORY

Read by teacher

What Happened to Lake Michigan?

Melanie had grown up near Chicago, and she had spent most of her summers sailing, swimming, and fishing in Lake Michigan. Melanie moved away from Chicago in 1980. In 1993, she and her husband, Mike, moved back to her home town, where they moved into a condominium high above Lake Michigan's impressive shoreline. Melanie noticed the water in the harbor was much clearer than when she was a child. She was surprised to see a lot of plant life in the water that she had never observed before.

One day while they were sailing, Melanie told Mike that, when she was in high school, she remembered boats coming in and out of the harbor filled with walleye and smallmouth bass. As Melanie was remembering the good old days with Mike, they passed her family's favorite vacation spot, a secluded beach where they camped every summer, and they noticed a nasty odor. Melanie and Mike also noticed that the only boats they saw on the lake were sailboats and yachts – no fishing boats.

On their return trip home they stopped at Fred's Fresh Fish Shop to purchase, what else, fresh fish. Melanie was disappointed to learn from Fred, a local fisherman, that he did not have any walleyes left.

He informed her that the local fishing industry had gone through many changes. At this time, the only fresh fish he had was fish shipped in from elsewhere.

What Happened to Lake Michigan?

1. Why was the lake much clearer when Melanie returned in 1993?

2. What factors could have caused the increase in vegetation?

3. An odor was observed on the beach. What could have caused it?

4. Who or what could have been responsible for the decreased number of walleye?

5. What changes has the local fishing industry gone through?
